

O3_A2_A_Scientific Evidence

COMMUNICATING THE DIAGNOSIS OF SEVERE ILLNESS (BAD NEWS)

Q4	Is beneficial for patients to dispose of a psychologic support (Psychoncologist) when breaking bad news?
Patients	Patients elderly and/or frail and/or end of life indications in a palliative facility Frail, aged, end of life adults Children in a palliative facility
Intervention	Trained communication skills
Comparator	No trained communication skills
Outcome	Core outcome measures: patient's experience in breaking bad QOL
Methodology	Systematic reviews Randomized controlled trials Cohort studies Registry studies
Extra	Planned subgroup analysis

Studies:

A RCT (group of students and residents) testing a training module of communication skills incorporating the preferences of patients was included (N=66).

Recommendations:

1. Training students physicians in communication skills brought an improvement according to the patient's experience (1):
 - Breaking bad news ($p = 0.003$),
 - Attention to patient responses after breaking bad news ($p = 0.001$),
 - Communication related to patient emotions ($p = 0.043$).
2. To Train medical residents in communication skills when breaking bad news showed a significant improvement according to the patient's experience (1):
 - Breaking bad news ($p = 0.004$),
 - Communication related to patient emotions ($p = 0.034$),

Comments:

Quality of life was found statistically significant improvement in only 1/30 items; and found no statistically significant differences between healthcare professionals that attended communication skills training (CST) or not. Anxiety, depression, distress: were reported with a statistically significant reduction in patient symptoms after the consultation in the intervention group (2).



Massive open online courses with videos for palliative clinical field
and intercultural and multilingual medical communication

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Conclusions:

Education programs could lead to improved communication skills and patient care.

References:

1. Gorniewicz J, et al. Breaking bad news to patients with cancer: A randomized control trial of a brief communication skills training module incorporating the stories and preferences of actual patients. Patient Educ Couns (2016).
2. Moore PM, Rivera Mercado S, Grez Artigues M, Lawrie TA. Communication skills training for healthcare professionals working with people who have cancer. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2013, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD003751.